

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example one of the dangers of your recent tendency to relax the overall enforcement of the regulations under which broadcasters operate (excepting, recently, of "decency" rules).

The airwaves over which Sinclair broadcasts belong to me and all of the other individual citizens of the United States. They do NOT belong to Sinclair or any of the other media broadcast entities. However, these entities are allowed to use public airwaves free of charge. In return they are obligated by law to serve the public interest. It is your (the FCC's) responsibility to see that they do. Now, Sinclair seems to be in the process of creating a "news" program designed to specifically criticize and demean one John Kerry and to broadcast this program within weeks of the coming election. Most reasonable analysis of what seems to be happening suggests that this is a blatant attempt to move voters opinions in the direction of George Bush, but to skirt election law and to avoid giving free air time to the Kerry campaign to respond, Sinclair is labeling the program as a "news documentary". They need to either be required to offer the same amount of air time that their program will take for free to the Kerry campaign (in the same time slot and before the election) so that the Kerry campaign can respond, or be required to pay for (and register said payment as) a political contribution to the Bush campaign.

I understand that some of the above activity/regulation belongs to the FEC, but you also (since your job is to be our advocate for responsible and lawful use of our airwaves) have a responsibility to make sure that this egregious misuse of the public trust does not take place.

Thank you.